Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 7 and 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Electrophoresis mobility shift assays (EMSA). A 22-mer consensus Spl oligonucleotide 5'-ATTCGATCGGGGCGGGGCGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 2) was used as a probe to determine Spl/DNA interactions. For supershift experiments, nuclear extracts (5 μg) are incubated for 2 h on ice with an anti-Spl antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnologies, Santa Cruz, CA) prior to the binding reactions. Binding mixtures are separated electrophoretically on native 4% acrylamide gels, as described previously (Vindevoghel *et al*, 1997).

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Decoy oligonucleotides. In some *in vitro* experiments decoy double-stranded oligonucleotides are used in an attempt to interfere with Spl binding to its cognate *cis*-elements within the COL1A2 promoter. Specifically, a 22-mer consensus Spl oligonucleotide, 5'-ATTCGATCGGGGCGGGGCGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:2), is added to the culture medium of dermal fibroblasts transfected with -3500COL1A2/CAT. A mutant oligonucleotide, mSpl, 5'-ATTCGATCG**TAGCGATG**CGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), is used as a control. 24 h later, CAT activity, representing promoter activity, is determined.